

REMARKS

This Reply to Office Action is responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 4, 2005. Claims 7-12 and 20-24 are pending in the present Application. Applicant has amended claims 7 and 8. Accordingly, claims 7-12 and 20-24 are still at issue.

With this Reply, Applicant submits a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time, making Applicant's Reply due on or before August 4, 2005. Accordingly, Applicant's Reply is timely filed.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-9, 11-12, and 20-24 under ' 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Blanks* (U.S. 5,732,446) in view of *Andersen* (U.S. 6,035,495) and *Sauer* (U.S. 4,300,270). The Examiner also rejected claim 10 under ' 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Blanks* in view of *Andersen* and *Sauer*, and further in view of *Thurston* (U.S. Re 25,769). However, Applicant submits that claims 7-12 and 20-24 are patentable over *Blanks*, *Andersen*, *Sauer* and *Thurston*, taken alone or in combination.

Independent claim 7, as amended, recites ". . . an elongate metallic strap having a first end and a second end opposite the first end, a hooked portion formed integral with the first end and a return loop connecting the first end to the hooked portion, wherein the return loop includes at least one rib disposed thereon." As best seen in FIGS. 1 and 6, the return loop connects the first end 26 of the strap 28 to the hooked portion 34, and the return loop includes at least one rib 38 disposed thereon. Applicant submits that neither *Blanks*, *Andersen*, *Sauer* nor *Thurston*, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a cable tie having a return loop connecting one end of a strap to an integral hooked portion, with the return loop including at least one rib disposed thereon.

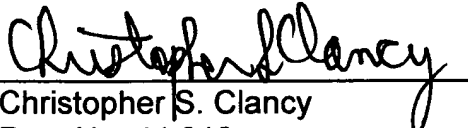
In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that *Andersen* discloses using a reinforcing rib (13) on a return loop (12', figure 1). However, as discussed in column 2, lines 62-65, *Andersen* discloses a hose clamp having a reinforcing rib 13 across the juncture 12' of tab 14 to restrain tab 14 against bending when the clamp is tightened. As further discussed in column 3, lines 10-12, the head side tab is prevented from excessive bending by reinforcing rib 13 across junction 12'. However, *Andersen* does not disclose, teach or suggest a cable tie having a return loop connecting one end of a strap to an integral hooked portion, with the return loop having at least one rib disposed thereon. Moreover, it would not have been obvious to add reinforcing ribs to the metal tie band of *Blanks*, because there is no suggestion or motivation in *Andersen* (which discloses a hose clamp) to add reinforcing ribs to a cable tie having a return loop connecting one end of a strap to an integral hooked portion. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 7 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 8 has been amended to conform with amended claim 7. Claims 8-12 and 20-24 are asserted to be allowable based on their dependency from allowable claim 7.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 7-12 and 20-24 are allowable and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 13, 2005


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